

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

JUDICIAL

District of

NEW MEXICO

United States of America

v.

Vernon Earl COLEMAN

Case No.

MS 10-968

Defendant

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date of 04-02-2010 in the county of Hidalgo in the Judicial District of New Mexico, the defendant violated 21 U. S. C. § 841 A1,
an offense described as follows:

Possession with Intent to Distribute approximately 345 kilograms (759 pounds) of Marijuana.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

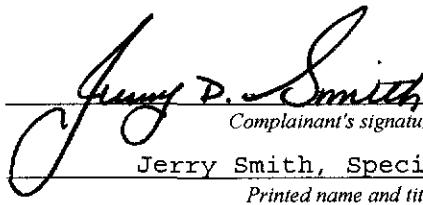
On April 2, 2010, at approximately 1:15 PM, Vernon Earl COLEMAN drove his tractor-trailer traveling east into the New Mexico Motor & Transportation Division (MTD) Port of Entry (POE) station located on Interstate 10 mile marker 23. MTD Officer Christopher Alvarez was in full uniform conducting safety inspections. Officer Alvarez greeted the driver (later identified as Vernon Earl COLEMAN), and asked his destination. Officer Alvarez noted that COLEMAN avoided eye contact and appeared to be very nervous. Officer Alvarez advised COLEMAN that a Level II safety inspection would be done. COLEMAN was driving a red Kenworth tractor displaying a Michigan license plate RA29257 with the company name of Taylor Family Trucking displayed.

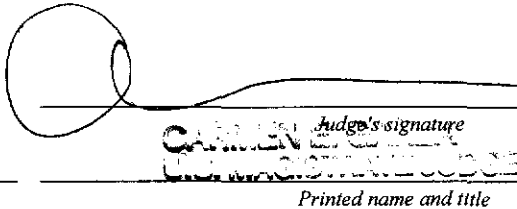
☒ Continued on the attached sheet.

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 04-03-2010

City and state: Las Cruces, New Mexico


Complainant's signature
Jerry Smith, Special Agent
Printed name and title


Judge's signature
Printed name and title

Page 2

United States of America

V.

COLEMAN, Vernon Earl

Officer Alvarez requested COLEMAN's log book and his bill of lading. After completing the paperwork part of the inspection, Inspector Dave Gomez accompanied Officer Alvarez outside to conduct a cargo verification check.

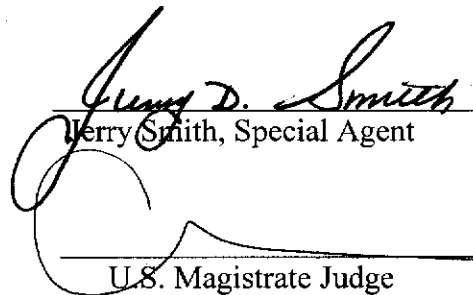
The rear door was sealed with seal number 808884 that did not match the bill of lading seal number of 0002139. Officer Alvarez noted that the bill of lading indicated that he was hauling window blinds. Once the trailer door was opened, Officer Alvarez noted that some of the packages were open and some of the boxes were damaged. Officer Alvarez crawled through the load and observed black and camouflage duffle bags between the pallets that were not consistent with the load.

Officer Alvarez completed the inspection. COLEMAN gave Officer Alvarez written consent to search the vehicle. Officer Alvarez opened the rear doors and deployed canine "Iya". "Iya" alerted to the rear of the trailer. Officer Alvarez inspected the duffle bags and found approximately 759 pounds of a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana.

Officer Madrid then placed Vernon COLEMAN under arrest and was read his Miranda rights.

AUSA Renee Camachio authorized Federal Prosecution on Vernon Earl COLEMAN

Vernon COLEMAN was later booked into the Dona Ana County Detention Center in Las Cruces, NM.


Jerry Smith, Special Agent
U.S. Magistrate Judge